

record, would you run the risk of evading Border Patrol rather than presenting yourself, getting in line, being processed and being released within a few weeks? The reason for that is that many of them have criminal background records.

We had 750 recently apprehended who were documented members of gangs in their country of origin. These are people that are coming to this country and quickly going to the communities that they are most like and making those communities less safe for the people who are legally present or the people who have been relocated over the past couple of years with the flood at the border.

You also have to understand that the cartel—the reason the administration has to recognize this is a crisis is the cartels made an estimated \$800 million over the last 12 months paying a toll to come to this country. If you are in a Latin American country or South American country, you are paying an average between \$5,000 to \$7,000 per person. If you are from China, you are paying about \$35,000. These cartels have set up a marketing function. They go to these source countries and say: If you pay us a fee, we will get you to the United States, in spite of the fact that they have may have passed through other safe countries that they could seek asylum.

That is what we talk about when we are talking about abusing our asylum system. Our international treaties say that if somebody comes to you and you have a credible fear for your life or your family's life in the country that you live, relocate to a country that can grant you asylum and go through the process. But what the cartels are saying: Pay us a fee. We don't care where you are in the world—literally—and we will get you to the United States. And you will pass through several countries where you could have applied for asylum in between.

And then when you get here, the cartels have coached them on exactly what to say to make you think that they have a credible asylum claim, in spite of the fact that with hundreds of judges—Democratic judges, Republican judges, Independent judges—80 percent of those asylum claims are deemed not to be credible. So the asylum system is broken. It has to be fixed. It is one of the foundations of any kind of framework that I could support.

The border has to be secured, and we need more technology and more enforcement at the legal ports of entry because those same cartels who are making \$800 million a year are spending that money to then send truckloads of fentanyl and dangerous drugs poisoning and killing Americans.

I hope that in the next Congress, we can recognize, No. 1—hopefully the administration will recognize that we do have a crisis at the border and it can't be solved on partisan grounds. We have to have a conversation. Both ends of the political spectrum need to recog-

nize that you have to move to a point where we can produce a solution. Otherwise, Americans are going to be poisoned to death, and people trying to cross the border are going to die in the hundreds. It is a moral obligation that we have to get out of our political comfort zone and get something done. Otherwise, the deaths, the blood of the people who die as a result of inaction, will be on the hands of everybody in this room.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

AUTHORIZING LEASES OF UP TO 99 YEARS FOR LAND HELD IN TRUST FOR THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE CHEHALIS RESERVATION

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I know I am interrupting a very, very important debate, and I appreciate my colleagues being out here to discuss this. I know the Senator from Illinois, the leader, is also here to discuss this issue. I am asking if I could interrupt that for a second.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 591, S. 3773.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3773) to authorize leases of up to 99 years for land held in trust for the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Ms. CANTWELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 3773) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3773

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE CHEHALIS RESERVATION LEASING AUTHORITY.

Subsection (a) of the first section of the Act of August 9, 1955 (69 Stat. 539, chapter 615; 25 U.S.C. 415(a)), is amended, in the second sentence, by inserting “, land held in trust for the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation” after “Crow Tribe of Montana”.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleagues, Senator SINEMA and Senator TILLIS, for their statements earlier on the floor on the issue of immigration. A number of us are coming to the floor to discuss it today.

It is a sad day—sad because there are many people who are counting on this Congress to do something, who understood that we have an immigration system that is terribly broken and we are paying a heavy price for it, and there are many who are watching this proceeding today who are paying an even heavier price.

If we do nothing to help those who are protected by DACA, if we do nothing to help the Dreamers, court decisions may preempt us and may force some of these people to face the reality that they can no longer legally work in America and they are subject to deportation.

Many of these young people—and I will tell the story of one in just a moment—have spent their whole lives here in the United States. They have gone to our schools. They go to our churches. We see them at the high school football games. They work in the Dairy Queens. They are all over America because they are part of America—at least they think they are, but they are not. They are undocumented. Their parents brought them to this country when they were infants and toddlers and little kids. They grew up in this Nation thinking they were part of it, and then there was a day of awakening when the parents sat down and said: We have to tell you the truth. You are not here legally.

These are the Dreamers, people I have been trying to help for over 20 years. It is over 20 years since I first introduced the DREAM Act. I wanted to help them. I thought perhaps we could get something done. We haven't been able to. Unfortunately, today, it looks very, very unlikely that we will.

I hear in the comments from the Senator from Arizona and the Senator from North Carolina the bottom-line truth: Any reasonable, factual discussion or debate on immigration has to not only deal with the Dreamers and those who are here on undocumented status but also has to deal with what is going on at our southern border. The Senator from Arizona is correct. It is a humanitarian and security nightmare that is only getting worse. We are being flooded at the border by people who want to be safely in the United States.

I had an opportunity to meet some of those migrants who were bused to Chicago a few weeks ago and sit down across the table from them and hear their stories. I tell you, I recommend that to all who are interested in this issue. Hear the real stories of desperation and danger they faced in the countries they came from, and realize that their sentiments to be part of America, protected in America, have an opportunity in America, are the same sentiments that brought my grandmother to this country with my 2-year-old mother and her sister and brother.

I recall the stories. These are not people setting out to cheat some political system; these are people fighting for survival—Carlos, with his 4-year-